Cauſes of a publike Faſt and Humiliation, appointed by the Commiſſion of the Generall Aſſembly, To be kept in all the Congregations of this Kirk upon the third Sabbath of September, in this yeer 1646.

I. NOtwithſtanding of our profeſſion in the laſt Article of our Solemne League and Covenant, yet to this day the Son of God is not honoured amongſt us in the excellencie of his Perſon, nor imployed in the vertue of his Offices; But the unſearchable riches of Chriſt and the ineſtimable treaſure of the Goſpell are neglected and deſpiſed as things of no value.

II. We doe not tremble under the threatnings of the Law, verified upon us in many ſad and ſore judgements, Nor doe we follow the direction thereof as a rule of our obedience, but the whole Land almoſt and many in our Armies ſtill lie in a deep ſecurity, and live under groſſe prophanity and hardneſſe of heart.

III. We have reaſon to mourn for the iſſue of that horrid Rebellion, as a teſtimony of the continued indignation of the moſt High againſt our backſlidings and provocations.

IIII. The lamentable condition of our Brethren in *Ireland*, almoſt brought unto fainting, and neere to be ſwallowed up by the power and cruelty of the Rebells there, Together with the danger that we are threatned with from them, and the afflicted eſtate of thoſe parts of this Kingdome which yet lie under the feet of the Enemies.

V. Seeing the Lord hath been pleaſed to ſtain the pride of all our glory, by blaſting all our carnall confidence and making the emptineſſe of means to appear, we would ſeriouſly intreat him that he would make himſelf glorious in the midſt of us, by the manifeſtation of his free grace and wonted favour, in pardoning our ſins, reclaiming us from our backſlidings, and healing our Land for his own Name ſake.

VI. That the Lord would ſoften the Kings heart, and give unto him the ſpirit of Humiliation that he may mourn for his iniquity, and that the ſpirit of wiſdom and underſtading may be given to him, and all theſe that are imployed in the publik affairs in both Kingdoms, that all their councells and actions may be means for the advancement of the Kingdom of the Son of God, promoving the work of Uniformity, holding faſt the League betwixt the Ntions, and for procuring a firm and well-grounded Peace in all the three Kingdomes.

VII. That the ſpirit of Faithfulneſſe, Unity, and Zeal, may be poured upon all the Miniſters of the land, that in integrity and love they may bear burden one with another, & ſeeking the honour of Jeſus Chriſt and the edifying of his Body the Church.

VIII. That the Lord would crowne the year with his goodneſſe in granting a fair and fruitfull Harvet.

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